

*Site Summary*

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distributed to J. Fox

**Cornell-Dubilier Electronics
South Plainfield/Middlesex County/New Jersey**

Background:

The Cornell-Dubilier Electronics Site (Site) is located in a mixed industrial/residential/commercial area of South Plainfield, New Jersey and is bounded on the east by the Bound Brook. The Cornell-Dubilier Electronics Company (CDE) operated at the Site from 1936 to 1962 manufacturing electronic components, including capacitors. It is reported that Cornell-Dubilier deposited polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contaminated materials and other hazardous substances directly onto Site soils. The Site is currently known as the Hamilton Industrial Park and is occupied by 15 businesses. It is anticipated that this Site will be proposed for the NPL in August of 1997.

PCBs have been detected on-site in surface soils and in the surface water and sediment of the Bound Brook. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) has reviewed the available sampling data and concluded that PCBs are present at levels of public health concern at the Site and chronic exposure to PCBs in surface soil presents a public health concern to on-site workers and trespassers.

Results of wipe samples collected from surfaces within the interiors of on-site buildings indicate the presence of PCBs at concentrations in excess of the TSCA Spill Cleanup Policy. The source of PCB contamination in building interiors has not been determined and may be a result of past releases to the environment and/or past releases to the building interiors. ATSDR has been consulted and determined that PCBs in the building interiors pose a potential long-term health threat to workers; a final health consultation is forthcoming.

Issue:

PCBs present in waters and sediments of the Bound Brook may enter the food chain and bioaccumulate. This is of particular concern because water bodies downstream of the Site are utilized as freshwater fisheries. Presently there is no data indicating contamination of downstream fisheries, however, the potential for human health risk from consumption of contaminated fish can not be ruled out at this time.

If the source of contamination within the on-site building is past spills to building interiors, EPA may not have the authority to take action under CERCLA.

Current Status:

The current property owner was issued a Unilateral Administrative Order to undertake a removal action to stabilize the Site. The Order requires the owner take action to interrupt exposure

pathways by limiting access to areas of known PCB contamination, implementing engineering controls to limit the migration of contaminants off-site to the Bound Brook and paving driveways and parking areas at the Site. The owner initially was initially reluctant to undertake the required work but has recently made an effort to comply with the terms of the Order.

A work plan is being prepared by EPA for a study to assess the impacts of contamination of the Bound Brook on human health and the environment. Surface water, sediment and fish tissue samples will be analyzed for contaminants of concern including PCBs. The results of these analyses will be evaluated to determine the risk to public health and environmental. It is anticipated that field work for this study will begin in June 1997 and that results will be available in October 1997.

The results of interior sampling have been released to the property owner, tenants of the industrial park and local and state health agencies. The property owner has indicated that they are willing to work with EPA to address contamination within the buildings. On May 15, EPA, ATSDR, South Plainfield Health Department and a representative of the property owner met with tenants and workers of the industrial park to discuss the interior sampling results and the potential health risk to workers.

Political Implications:

NJ Assemblyman Bob Smith has requested information regarding potential health risk to communities located downstream of the Site from contamination of the Bound Brook.

Press

Community Involvement